

In response, claims 2 and 9 are amended per the Examiner's instructions.

II. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for insufficient antecedent basis.

In response, claim 4 is amended to have antecedent basis, which is provided in claim 2.

III. Claims 2, 4, 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aubay et al. (US 6905814).

In response, claim 2 is amended to change the transition to 'consisting essentially of,' changing the claim scope to a closed claim. The amended claim 2 reads:

"A liquid composition for promoting plant growth by increasing the photosynthetic efficiency, consisting essentially of titanium dioxide nanoparticles, having a particle size of 3 to 200 nm; and silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 1 to 100 nm; and one or more adjuvants selected from a water soluble salt and metallic oxide and non-metallic oxide, which are used at the amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight relative to the titanium dioxide nanoparticles; and one or more surfactants for dispersion selected from a cationic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant and an anionic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant, which are used at the amount of 0.1 to 5% by weight relative to the titanium dioxide nanoparticles."

On the other hand, Aubay's composition consists of:

- 1) titanium dioxide on the surfaces with a film-forming dispersion comprising a continuous phase, said titanium dioxide being in the form of elementary particles whose size is less than 100 nm, and whose specific surface area is greater than 150 m<sup>2</sup>/g,
- 2) water or at least one alcohol whose boiling point is less than 120.degree. C., and said dispersion having, when it comprises water, a pH different by at least 1 unit, from the value of the isoelectric point of titanium dioxide in said dispersion, and
- 3) at least one film-forming organic or organosiloxane polymer interacting with the surface of the titanium dioxide particles by electrostatic bonding and selected from the group consisting of: a sulfonated terephthalic oligoester or copolyester, a

polyoxyalkylenated polymer which carries anionic functions, a cationic polymer additionally exhibiting bacteriostatic properties, a cationic homopolymer or copolymer derived from at least one cationic monomer comprising an ethylenic unsaturation, optionally in a mixture with at least one nonionic monomer, and an amphoteric copolymer derived from at least one cationic monomer comprising an ethylenic unsaturation, and at least one anionic monomer comprising an ethylenic unsaturation, optionally in a mixture with at least one nonionic monomer.

Aubay's composition requires organic or organosiloxane polymer as its essential ingredient for achieving the purpose of his invention. The amended claims 2 and 9 of the present application excludes the presence of organic or organosiloxane polymer. The composition of the amended claims is not anticipated or implied by the cited references.

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**CONCLUSION**

The applicant believes that the objection and rejections were obviated by the amendment of claims and the above remarks, and the application is now in condition for allowance: therefore, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectively requested. If there are any additional comments or requirements from the examination, the applicant asks for a non-final office action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 16-0310.

Very truly yours,  
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